

DELAWARE POPULATION CONSORTIUM



MINUTES **Delaware Population Consortium** **Virtual Meeting** **August 27, 2020**

The Meeting of the Delaware Population Consortium was held on Thursday, August 27, 2020 virtually using WebEx.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Samantha Bulkilvish at 10:00 a.m.

The following Consortium members were present:

Officers:

Samantha Bulkilvish, Chair, City of Dover
Matthew Rogers, Secretary, New Castle County
Jamie Fenske, Secretary, Kent County

Voting Members:

Mary Ellen Gray, City of Newark
Eric Thompson, DLLG
Terry Pepper, Department of Safety and Homeland Security
Jonathan Taswell, Delaware State Housing Authority
Molly Magarik, Dept. of Health and Social Services
Marc Cote, DelDot
James Galvin, Dover/Kent MPO
Dan Blevins, WILMAPCO
Miriam Pomilio, Office of State Planning
Dr. Susan Bunting, Department of Education

Other Members: Ed Ratledge, Jennifer Miles, Anson Gock, Tom Dougherty, Colton Phillips, Chase Phillips, David Edgell, Dorothy Morris

MINUTES

The minutes for July 23, 2020 were approved on a motion by Matthew Rogers, seconded by Susan Bunting.

BUSINESS -

1. Dan Blevins – “Why the numbers are the way they are”
 - Dan explained that the population is continuing to grow but the rate is slowing down, with the death rates being close to the birth rates. He detailed that four states have had more deaths than births.
 - By 2030 the baby boomers will be 65 years old and in the same year we will be relying on net immigration. Immigration is becoming a larger part of growth.
 - New Castle’s population is tied to net migration and is not immune to declines in births. Vacant households in New Castle are increasing.
 - Ed Ratledge explained that approximately 40% of the workforce is working remotely which could continue to be a new trend.
2. Presentation by Matthew Rogers – “Population Projections in Scenario Planning”
 - New Castle is taking a more active role in their current Comprehensive Plan and is continuing to use the Delaware Population Consortium projections so that all state agencies, counties, municipalities, and school districts are using the same population numbers.
 - Consider different tools for addressing transportation and infrastructure improvements. Expanding utility services allows for more land development and projected development.
 - Land Use Policy/Zoning has the potential to have profound impacts on household numbers if there is a mismatch between supply and demand by impacting density, site capacity and unit type.
 - There is adequate number of housing units that are approved or in the pipeline for the expected growth in Southern New Castle County.
 - SNCC Comprehensive Plans are reviewed annually, with a 5 year review, and a 10 year update.
3. Future meeting dates
 - Next meeting is scheduled for September 24th at 10am.
 - Next meeting will involve discussion by DelDOT.

ADJOURNMENT

The Consortium voted to adjourn the meeting.

ATTEST:

Samantha Bulkilvish
Chair
Delaware Population Consortium